a) combining the biological sample with the polynucleotide [of Claim 12] encoding a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or immunologically active fragment thereof, under conditions suitable for the formation of hybridization complex; and

b) detecting the hybridization complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with expression of the polynucleotide of [Claim 1] in the biological sample.

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18. (Once Amended.) A purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or immunologically active fragment thereof.

19. (Once Amended.) An antibody which specifically binds to a [of the] polypeptide of Claim 18.

20. (Once Amended.) A diagnostic test for a condition[s or diseases such as leukemias or malignant local tumors] associated with the expression of [the] a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 in a biological sample comprising [the steps of]:

a) combining the biological sample with the antibody of Claim 19, under conditions suitable for the antibody to bind the polypeptide and form a complex; and

b) detecting the complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with the expression of the polypeptide in the biological sample.

Please add the following new claims:

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21. A method of preparing an antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 18, comprising

a) immunizing an animal with said polypeptide or an antigenically-effective fragment thereof, under conditions whereby an antibody response is elicited; and

b) isolating from said immunized animal antibodies which specifically bind to said polypeptide.

22. A purified antibody produced by a method of claim 21.

23. A method of making a monoclonal antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 18, comprising

a) immunizing an animal with said polypeptide or antigenically-effective fragment thereof, under conditions whereby an antibody response is elicited;

b) isolating antibody producing cells from said animal;

c) fusing said antibody producing cells with immortalized cells in culture to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells;

d) culturing said hybridoma cells; and

e) isolating from said culture monoclonal antibodies which specifically bind to said polypeptide.

24. A monoclonal antibody produced by a method of claim 23.

25. A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 18, comprising the steps of

a) contacting a sample containing said polypeptide with a compound, under conditions wherein agonist activity of said polypeptide can be detected, and

b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated agonist compound identified by a process of claim 25 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. A method of screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 18, comprising the steps of

a) contacting a sample containing said polypeptide with a compound, under conditions wherein antagonist activity of said polypeptide can be detected, and

b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

28. A pharmaceutical composition comprising an isolated antagonist compound identified by a process of claim 27 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

29. A method of treating a disease or condition associated with decreased expression of a functional polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or functionally active fragment thereof, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 26.

30. A method of treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of a functional polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or functionally active fragment thereof, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a pharmaceutical composition of claim 28.

31. A method of treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of a functional polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or functionally active fragment thereof, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment an antibody of claim 22.

32. A method of treating a disease or condition associated with overexpression of a functional polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or a naturally occurring variant thereof, or a biologically or functionally active fragment thereof, comprising administering to a patient in need of such treatment a monoclonal antibody of claim 24.

33. A diagnostic test of claim 20, wherein the disease or condition is leukemia or a malignant local tumor.